

# 44,000 at Playlots Get Food Supplements Here

By HAROLD WARDLAW

More than 44,000 underprivileged Atlanta youngsters have started receiving between-meal supplements at supervised recreation centers, a federal agriculture official said here Tuesday.

"This is a cooperative venture under the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Campbell Foundation, the Atlanta Board of Education, Economic Opportunity Atlanta (EOA) and the City of Atlanta Parks and Recreation Department," Haines Presley explained in an interview.

He said Atlanta's program is the largest in the nation. "Estimates indicate that as many as 70,000 children may be reached before the summer is over."

The between-meal supplements, or "mini-meals," consist of such items as milk, sandwiches, fruits, bread, juices and so on.

"These mini-meals are prepared at 12 Atlanta schools and then delivered twice daily to more than 100 supervised playlots or recreation centers," Presley pointed out.

But, he said, programs of this type could not get off the ground without help from private organizations such as the Campbell Foundation. "The foundation has already contributed \$10,000 to the summer project to help pay for personnel needed to prepare the 'mini-meals' at the 12 school cafeterias," he said.

Presley said more than \$500,000 has been set aside for the program by USDA. Atlanta is one of the first cities in the

nation to take advantage of this new feeding program, called "Special Food Services for Children." He added that this is one of USDA's first ventures

in urban feeding.

EOA's Mike Ray, coordinator of the summer feeding program, said "Although the program is ready to go, we are low on sup-

plies of cardboard boxes and sandwich bags.

"Interest in the program has been running high, and we are in hopes that local industries

might be able to contribute boxes and sandwich bags," Ray said. "That way, all the USDA funds could be spent on food for these needy children."

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